2700 35th Place NW

Washington DC

April 19, 1966

Dear Sylvain:

The other day a chap named Harold Weisberg, who used to be with the OSS as an analyst during the war and is now in semi-retirement farming chickens in Maryland, called on me with the manuscript of a remarkable book on the Warren Commission Report on Kennedy's assassination.

I don't know whether you realised it, but along with the Commission Report came some 26 volumes of appendices, which represented the verbatim testimony of the witnesses Warren examined during the hearings. What Weisberg has done has been to go through all this stuff and come up with some remarkable findings -- all of them backed up by the published material.

The thing reads like a detective story. The burden of it is that Oswald could hardly have done the dead alone and, what's more, it would have been very difficult to secure a conviction if he had. Moreover, it transpires clearly on each that there was some very odd judging of the witnesses' testimony in order to make it fit a theory that was convenient. For example, Governor Connally himself does not believe he was hit by the same bullet as Kennedy. Kennedy was hit by two of the three fired and one went astray, according to the official findings. But early testimony suggests that at least one shot came from in front and not from behind the presidential car. And so on.

Now, a good deal of snipsot stuff has been written by sensationalists on this story. Trevor Roper smelled a rat, you'll remember, but got some details wrong. But Weisberg re-opens the whole thing, I think.

I have tried to interest the Sunday Telegraph in the book, naturally. But they only want it for excerpting from a book to be published. At the moment Leslie Frewin has it and is pondering it seriously, I gather. So is some firm there. But, as you can imagine, there are a good many reasons for having cold feet.

Weisberg has an agent in London named Harbord, who has a copy. I suggested to him that he ask Harbord to get in touch with you as I thought you'd like the see it and could possibly make some suggestions on how to proceed if Frewin falls through. I believe John Lane was thinking of publishing Mark Lane's book (one of the hysterical ones) but that Unwin's have taken it up. Mark Lane's trouble is that he testified before the Commission, is a well known pink and is wide open on too many flanks.

All best,

Alistair